



NORTHEASTERN
Brazil

Leland, Naomi, Lincoln, and Lauren Johnson

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Medical Furlough Update

Last month, we related how thankful we were that the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida had taken Naomi's case and that we were headed there to meet one of their top oncologists. The trip went well; Naomi was in some pain as it wore on, but it was not unbearable.

From the moment the oncologist walked in the room, we knew that this man knew what he was talking about. He showed us charts that he uses with his students to help us understand what is going on and to compare Naomi's results with other results he has seen. After reviewing all her information, he told us that he was not sure that he agreed with the diagnosis that the other doctor had given. He decided to run several different tests and request the bone marrow biopsy that was run in January, so that they could inspect the results there.

While "let's run some more tests" has been the refrain for the last several months, several encouraging things happened. First, he was able to state definitively that the pain Naomi has been experiencing in her foot, and that is preventing her from walking, is not related to the diagnosis. He recommended an orthopedic specialist for that issue. After visiting the orthopedic specialist, several medications and braces were prescribed for her foot, and he believes that she should start to see improvement in about six weeks. That is a tremendous encouragement as this is the first time since last fall that any doctor has told us anything other than, "Hum, I am not really sure..."

Secondly, and even more encouragingly, the oncologist at the Mayo Clinic sent her PET and CT scans over to his radiology department for review. After reviewing the information, they posted a message on Naomi's portal explaining that they believe they may have found something that was missed in her prior results. They identified a potential problem in her lower back that they believe might be causing the issues that she is having in her legs. While it is too early for them to say definitively, we cannot help but be excited that someone believes that they think that they may be on to something.

At the current time, we are still waiting for the oncologist to receive and review the bone marrow biopsy that has been done and to follow up with us. When he does, we will likely be scheduled with a new set of doctors to investigate the issue they have identified that may be causing the problem in her legs. While things are still up in the air, we are excited that there are now some doctors who think they know what may be going on. We delayed this letter for as long as possible hoping to be able to have more information to relay, but we wanted to give you the most current information. Keep on praying, God is working!

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